

Local Governments Can Help!

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition.

Nearly 18 million students depend on free or reduced-price school lunches and breakfasts for 9 months out of the year. For many of these children, summer vacation exposes them to an increased risk of hunger and developmental decline.

As a public official, you may know that children who miss breakfast or lunch are more likely to be sick, absent or tardy, disruptive in class, and inattentive. They also score lower on achievement tests.

Good nutrition is essential for learning in school. The Summer Food Service Program, with support from the USDA, gives public agencies an opportunity to improve a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals.

The Summer Food Service Program helps lower income students return to school ready to learn.



How can your public agency provide meals to students when the regular school year ends?

- The Summer Food Service Program is ideal if your agency sponsors enrichment, recreational, or activity programs over the summer. It is a federally funded program administered by your State.
- The State agency reimburses sponsors for meals served to children, including teenagers through age 18, at approved meal sites in low-income areas.
- Simplified rules allow sponsors to earn the maximum rates of reimbursement for the meals they serve and use the money as they need for their food programs.
- The Summer Food Service Program simplifies claims and maximizes reimbursements to make it easier for local governments and public agencies to provide good nutrition to children all summer long.



Become a Sponsor

- Local government agencies are well positioned to sponsor meal services for children at recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, camps, and other neighborhood sites.
- Many public agencies partner with local schools to provide meals that complement learning and recreation opportunities for children. A public sponsor may prepare its own meals, or purchase meals from a school or a food supplier.
- Sponsors are reimbursed for all meals served that meet USDA's nutrition standards.



Run a Site

- Even if you cannot take on the responsibilities of a sponsor, a local government agency can host a site.
- As a meal service site, your public agency provides staff and volunteers to supervise the children's meals, along with recreation and enrichment activities, under the administration of an approved Summer Food Service Program sponsor.

Everyone Wins with Summer Food!

- Low-income children have nutritious meals and organized activities.
- Low-income parents stretch food dollars and have healthy recreation for their children.
- Food service workers have summer employment.
- The local government receives Federal money to run the food program.

What's the Next Step?
Contact your State agency!



Visit our website at:
www.summerfood.usda.gov

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
FNS-309
Revised November 2008

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The Summer Food Service Program for Local Governments



U.S. Department of Agriculture